

Hamilton County Commissioners' Meeting
P.O. Box 1167
Syracuse, KS 67878
Meeting Place— Commissioner Room
Hamilton County Courthouse
November 18, 2014
8:30 a.m.

Keith A. Puckett, Chairman
John R. Simon, Vice-Chairman
Randall C. Braddock, Commissioner
Michael W. Lewis, Commissioner
Nikki Schwerdfeger, Commissioner
Rob Gale, Attorney
Angie Moser, County Clerk

Commissioner Puckett called the Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all Commissioners present.

AGENDA: Commissioner Simon moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

PRIOR MINUTES: Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the November 10, 2014 Commissioner Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was approved with four "ayes" and one abstention.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Orin Florence voiced his concerns regarding the high property taxes in Hamilton County. The Commissioners explained how the County is losing its valuation and tax base, especially with oil and gas and also that the individual County Department's budgets have been cut to try and keep from raising taxes. Mr. Florence also voiced his concerns with the new proposed hotel having property taxes abated for ten years. The Commissioners explained the yearly payment of \$5,000.00 in lieu of taxes and the sales tax the hotel will generate.

Attorney Gale joined the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

ED BAKER: Mr. Baker, Rural Fire Chief, informed he would like to update a pump on one of the fire trucks with an approximate cost of \$4,200.00. He has enough funds in his present budget to cover the cost. The Commissioners granted permission for Mr. Baker to purchase a new pump. Commissioner Puckett moved to declare the old fire truck pump surplus property and to place it for sale on Purple Wave Auction. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

BRYAN COFFEY: Mr. Coffey, Hamilton County Hospital Administrator, discussed the following:

- 1) Informed some of the staff attended the Kansas Hospital Association meeting.
- 2) Hamilton County Hospital will be highlighted as a top Rural Health provider in December.
- 3) Still looking at an increase in revenue for 2014.
- 4) There have been some issues with the Company providing the outsourced billing. Mr. Coffey contacted the Company and these issues are being taken care of.
- 5) The Physical Therapy Department, Nursing Department, and the Medical Clinic have been approved as a Clinical Rotation Site which will rotate medical/nursing students in those departments. This will give our hospital more of an opportunity to recruit future medical staff.
- 6) The Board will work on a strategic plan and infrastructure at the first of 2015.
- 7) Will discuss at the Board meeting this Thursday what material to use on the outside of the new MRI building.
- 8) Discussed the confusion of Dr. Posey's level of care. His degree is in Internal Medicine with a sub special of non-invasive cardiology.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Marcia Ashmore and Eddie George, Historical Society Board Members, presented an estimate for replacement of the windows on the East Side of the Museum Building from Kinney Glass in the amount of \$12,347.28. The window project will not be completed until Spring. The Board will get some additional bids to include replacing the windows on West Side and report back to the Commission. Commissioner Braddock moved for a 5-minute executive session for matters pertaining to land acquisition with the Commissioners, the County Attorney, two Historical Board Members, and the County Clerk present. Commissioner Simon seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. The executive session began at 9:28 a.m. and the regular meeting resumed at 9:33 a.m.

KERSTIN MITCHELL: Ms. Mitchell, Rural Operations Secretary, discussed the Kansas Dept. of Transportation Federal Funds Exchange money available for 2011-2014. The Funds available to Hamilton County is \$269,074.59. Ms. Mitchell informed she has contacted KDOT and will submit all of the information required to receive the funds. Also, Calvin Hook requested to use prairie dog bait he purchased in 2009. The supplier informed the bait has lost its effectiveness and recommended not using the old bait. The Commissioners asked Ms. Mitchell to contact Calvin Hook and inform him the County would charge him a cost share of what was applicable in 2009 when he purchased the bait and he will be required to sign an agreement that the bait may not work. Also, Ms. Mitchell has a request for cost share on chemical other than Tordon used to spray bind weed. Ms. Mitchell will find out the actual cost share and report back to the Commission.

5-YEAR PLAN: The 5-year plan was reviewed.

ROAD PROJECT LIST: The Road Project List was reviewed. Need to work on the drainage problem on a Road Y leading into Kendall. Kendall Grade South to Road 29 will be removed from the list and Road Y will be added.

ROAD COMMITTEE REPORT: Commissioner Braddock informed he approved the purchase of a new battery tester for the Road Shop. Commissioner Puckett moved to declare the old heaters at the Road Shop surplus property and to place them for sale "as is" on Purple Wave Auction. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. Discussed a plan of the Road Crew working if the County would have a blizzard on a weekend and the need for someone to drive the Roads to see what snow removal work needed done. Commissioner Braddock can authorize overtime if he feels it is necessary.

ADDITIONS & ABATEMENTS: After review, Commissioner Simon moved to approved Abatements No. 140005 through 140012. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

R.O.W. PERMITS: Reviewed a Right of Way Permit submitted by WGP, KHC, LLC to bore under County Road 37 to place a 4" poly gas line. Commissioner Simon moved to approve the Right of Way Permit submitted by WGP, KHC, LLC for the gas line on Road 37. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

HEAT IN CLERK'S VAULT: The County Clerk presented an estimate from Big Dog Heating & Cooling, Inc. for duct work to add heat into the vault in her office. Commissioner Puckett will look at the duct work and report back to the Commission.

WARRANTS: After review and discussion, Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the Warrants in the amount of \$14,689.06 and \$1,124.54. Commissioner Simon seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Schwerdfeger left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

HOSPITAL NO-FUND WARRANTS: After review, Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the Series A Non-Taxable No Fund Warrants in the amount of \$150,000.00. Commissioner Simon seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Lewis is working on getting the EMS Director Interview Committee together. Also, Commissioner Lewis will contact Joe House with the State EMS Department to see if he will come out and discuss the future of rural EMS services. Commissioner Lewis also informed that Kenny Smith & Diedra Smith have agreed to be on call and help with the EMS as long as they are needed.

As there was no more business to come before the meeting, Commissioner Braddock moved for adjournment. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

ATTEST:

County Clerk

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner